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GLORIA MOLINA ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION IN BLOOD AND BONE MARROW DRIVE FOR EDUARDO MORALES-PEÑA

Six-Year-Old LAC-USC Patient Battling Leukemia—No Marrow Match Yet

LOS ANGELES (February 1, 2010)—Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Gloria Molina is encouraging the general public to participate in a blood and bone marrow drive for Eduardo Morales-Peña, a six-year old leukemia patient recently readmitted to the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California (LAC-USC) Medical Center after his condition severely worsened. The blood and bone marrow drive takes place tomorrow from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the hospital in the Old Building General Auditorium at 2051 Marengo St., Los Angeles, California, 90033.

“Eduardo is in the fight of his life,” Molina said. “He desperately needs a bone marrow transplant—especially since, currently, there are no matches for him in the national bone marrow registry. All it takes is a simple mouth swab—no needles—to determine whether someone is a match or not.”

Eduardo Morales-Peña of Lincoln Heights has battled Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia since he was two years old. Because tissue types are inherited, patients are most likely to match someone of their own race or ethnicity—so people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to participate in tomorrow’s event. Though county health officials are working in coordination with the American Red Cross to raise awareness of Eduardo’s affliction specifically, the blood and bone marrow drive should benefit thousands of other patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases by expanding the national registry of possible blood and bone marrow donors.

Questions should call Rose Saca of the LAC-USC Medical Center at (323) 346-5586 (cell) or Nick Samaniego of the American Red Cross at (909) 374-0376 (cell). ¡Se habla español!

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